

## **MRI - Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is an MRI?**

Magnetic Resonance Imaging is a painless diagnostic procedure that:

- Allows physicians to see detailed images of the internal structures of your body without using X-rays;
- Uses a large magnet, radio waves and a computer to scan your body;
- Clearly illustrates the difference between healthy and diseased tissue;
- Provides information about the brain, spine, joints and internal organs; and
- Can lead to early detection and treatment of disease and has no known side effects.

### **How long does an MRI examination take?**

Most MRI examinations will take between 20 and 30 minutes. Some tests will be a bit longer depending on the type of examination ordered by your physician.

### **What if I am claustrophobic?**

Some patients may experience claustrophobia within the MRI scanner.

The magnet itself is 1.6 metres long and 60 cm wide, and it is open at both ends. If you are claustrophobic, please speak with your referring physician before the day of your examination so a sedative can be ordered and brought with you the day of your examination.

An intercom system is available between patient and technologist and we have an emergency call button available at all times.

### **What if I am pregnant?**

If you are pregnant, please inform us prior to your MRI appointment, as we may need to further assess whether or not to perform this procedure.

### **Will I get a needle?**

Some MRI examinations will require an injection of MRI contrast (gadolinium) If you require an injection of contrast as part of your test the technologist will discuss this with you before proceeding with the test.

### **What is gadolinium?**

Gadolinium is a contrast used in MRI in order to better visualize internal body structures. Gadolinium is considered very safe and side effects are extremely rare. If you have any concerns please feel free to discuss them with us at any time.